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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

PATENT
0445-0299P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Takao KASAI et al.	Conf.:	5485
Appl. No.:	09/852,804	Group:	3761
Filed:	May 11, 2001	Examiner:	J. Stephens
For:	ABSORBENT ARTICLE		

#7

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

October 11, 2002

Sir:

Supplemental to the Amendment filed September 24, 2002, and further in response to the Examiner's Office Action dated June 24, 2002, the following remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

REMARKS

In the Amendment filed September 24, 2002, in the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5, Applicants discussed the fact that the Paul et al. reference discloses a hydrate of the zinc sulfate which has a possibility of decomposing a superabsorbent polymer. Applicants wish to bring to the Examiner's attention the fact that the inventor has now conducted an experiment regarding the adverse effect of a hydrate of a zinc sulfate on a superabsorbent polymer and confirmed that a hydrate of zinc sulfate actually prevents the absorbing performance of a superabsorbent polymer. Accordingly, as expected, a disadvantageous effect of this material has now been confirmed. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the comments previously submitted have now been strengthened by this experiment.